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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Attorney Docket No.: **AIBARA0003**
Hideaki KIKO) Confirmation No.: 4356
Serial No.: 10/597,648) Group Art Unit: 2161
Filed: August 2, 2006) Examiner: Unassigned
For: VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SYSTEM) Date: August 31, 2007

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, this
Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the above-identified application is
being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

- ☐ within three months of the filing date of this application (not a C.P.A.);
- ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the National Stage;
- ☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits of, after the filing of a
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under §1.114.

A copy of each non-U.S. document identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B is attached, however, in accordance with Official Gazette Notice dated August 5, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

Attached is a copy of the Search Report issued in the corresponding Japanese application. Since all of the documents cited herein were cited in said Search Report, it is believed that the relevancy of each document cited is clear from the Search Report. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that the Examiner initial a copy of Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and return them to the undersigned to indicate that the documents have been considered.

It is believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-8, but should the filing of this paper necessitate a fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fee to Deposit Account No.

50-1281.

Respectfully submitted,

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